



James Eldon Baker

January 4, 1947 - May 8, 2026

James E. "Jimmy" Baker

January 4, 1947 – May 8, 2026

James E. Baker, known affectionately to all as "Jimmy," passed away on Friday, May 8, 2026. He is now reunited with his beloved wife of 54 years, Dru Baker, who preceded him in death on March 10th.

Jimmy is a 1964 graduate of Higbee High School, and received his bachelor's degree from Northeast Missouri State in Kirksville. Upon graduation, he joined the US Navy, serving as a gunner's mate aboard the USS Charles F. Adams from 1969 to 1973.

Jimmy went on to spend 40 years as a High School Math teacher between Higbee and Westran High Schools. where "Mr. Baker" was a fixture of the math department and a mentor to generations of students.

When he wasn't at the chalkboard, Jimmy could be found in the garden, the garage, or the farm. To know Jimmy was to hear a story, and likely a joke that was just a little bit "dirty."

In his retirement, Jimmy remained active in the things he loved, donating his time to the Shriners Hospital, the Missouri Democratic Party, and the Urbana,

MO Eagles Club. Though he and Dru moved to Louisburg in 2005, their hearts always remained in Higbee.

Above all his professional achievements, Jimmy was an extremely proud parent and grandparent. He is survived by:

His son, Brandon Baker, and daughter-in-law, Heidi.

His three grandchildren: Dean, Bonnie, and Bradley.

His sister, Carolyn, and her husband, Karl.

A graveside service with military honors will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the Jacksonville Veterans Cemetery, Jacksonville MO.

Arrangements are under the direction of Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home, Buffalo.

Cemetery Details

Jacksonville Veterans Cemetery

1479 County Rd 1675
Jacksonville, MO 65260

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUN 3. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Jacksonville Veterans Cemetery
1479 County Rd 1675
Jacksonville, MO 65260

Tribute Wall

MF

“ *Mormino Family & Sims Family purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of James Eldon Baker.*



Mormino Family & Sims Family - May 17 at 06:43 PM